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GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPECIAL TOPICS FOR THE YEAR.—Officers and members of local branches are reminded of the newly adopted plan for focusing the discussions of the branches and of the Annual Meeting this year upon two designated topics on which committee reports have already been published. In this connection, attention is called to the Memorandum of Committee C on Fellowships and Scholarships in the May BULLETIN, and to that of Committee R, below (page 11).

ANNUAL MEETING.—The annual meeting will be held in Cleveland, probably on Saturday, December 27 and Monday, December 29 (subject to approval by the Council), in connection with the annual meetings of the American Historical Association and the American Political Science Association. It is anticipated that the program of the meeting will be focused on discussion of recent important committee reports already published in the BULLETIN, on Methods of Recruiting the Profession and on the Encouragement of Research. An important report from Committee T (Place and Function of Faculties in University Government and Administration) is anticipated. Reports of progress from other committees are expected. The detailed program will be published in the November BULLETIN and advance copy will probably be circulated to officers of local branches in the meantime.

Four constitutional amendments are expected to come up for action at the annual meeting. At the last annual meeting it was voted that the Council for 1919 prepare a draft of a constitutional amendment in regard to delegate representation of local branches, to be submitted to the branches for discussion during the year. This matter has been referred to a special committee as noted in the May BULLETIN. It is hoped that the report of the committee will be received in time for publication and discussion in advance of the annual meeting.

The Council has recommended a reduction of the length of service requirement for membership from ten years to five.

The Council has recommended an amendment making the term of office of the president and of the secretary each two years.

It may be necessary to reopen the question of raising the dues to three dollars. This was laid over by the Council last December.

On the occasion of the death of Mr. Andrew Carnegie, the President of the Association addressed a telegram to Mrs. Carnegie on behalf of the Association, expressing sympathy, and appreciation of Mr. Carnegie's great services to the cause of learning in America.

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL.—A statement of the recent reorganization of the Council was published in the May BULLETIN. A first meeting of the Division of Educational Relations was held in Washington June 25 under the chairmanship of Dr. Vernon L. Kellogg of Stanford University. The Division tentatively adopted the following as the possible range of its activities:

- (1) The relation of the National Research Council to the research activities of educational institutions of the United States.
- (2) The investigation of the organization, administration, conditions, and facilities of educational institutions as related to scientific research.
- (3) The promotion of educational research.

A circular of August 15 outlines the general functions of the Division:

This Division has undertaken to make a survey of the conditions in American educational institutions and in American education in general, which bear especially upon the possibilities of actual research and the encouragement and training of youths of natural capacity for investigation. Especially important among these conditions is the attitude of university authorities toward teachers and their work and the disposition of their time and energies; the funds and equipment available for research work; the aid to advanced students in the way of supporting research fellowships and scholarships; and the opportunities for competent investigators to find permanent positions in which their work can go on without too much other demand on their time and attention.

The Division of Educational Relations asks for the co-operation of the university and college authorities in its attempt to find out what it can concerning the conditions as they exist today with regard to research opportunity and activity in their institutions, in the hope that this knowledge may help the National Research Council in its desire to be of all possible assistance to the universities in their endeavor to foster American research. In trying to render this assistance the Council has no intention of attempting any slightest interference with control of university affairs. Its possible field of helpful activity must be chiefly determined by the suggestions and requests of the universities themselves.

Professor E. P. Lewis of the University of California has been appointed to represent this Association in the Division of Educational Relations.

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY UNION IN EUROPE.—The Union has recently been reorganized on a permanent basis and has invited the

Association to elect three trustees. The Secretary of the Association represented it informally at the September meeting of the trustees.

BRITISH EDUCATIONAL MISSION.—*School Life* for June 1 contains a review of the recent Report of the British Educational Mission which visited the United States last winter. The interesting recommendations included in the Report are in part as follows:

1. Recommendations to the British Government:

(a) That the members of this mission be constituted a temporary consultative body to advise the government and the universities on matters concerning the relations between British and American universities and other educational institutions. . . .

(b) That steps be taken to invite an American educational mission to visit this country after September, 1919, with the object of promoting closer relations between the universities of the two countries.

(c) That the universities be invited to establish without delay a committee for the purpose of maintaining closer relations between the universities of the two countries and of facilitating the interchange of students and teachers, and that a grant be made from public funds to meet the administrative expenses of this committee.

(d) That arrangements be made for receiving teachers and students from the American Army into British universities during the period of demobilization.

(e) That copies of the education act, the report of the Committee on the Place of Natural Science, the report of the Committee on the Place of Modern Languages, the Whitley report, and the report of the Committee on Adult Education be liberally distributed to American universities and colleges.

(f) That the Board of Education be invited to distribute educational information far more liberally than heretofore in the United States of America, including the statements suggested below concerning the admission of graduate students.

2. Recommendations to the universities of Great Britain and Ireland:

Apart from steps to be taken which require combined action by the universities and which may therefore involve the creation of new machinery, we feel that there is one matter in which immediate action should be taken by individual universities. We found everywhere a real desire to encourage American graduates to proceed to British universities, and at the same time we found a very widely prevailing ignorance of the conditions under which they can be admitted. It was very generally believed that many of the obstacles which existed 20 or 30 years ago still stand in the way of the graduate student, and that they exist in all British universities alike. This misunderstanding is mainly due to the absence of authentic information.

That each university should, without delay, prepare a brief statement showing the exact conditions under which foreign graduate students are admitted. . . .

We think that if the universities can agree to admit without further test graduates from approved American institutions, who show evidence that they are qualified to pursue the course of study proposed, much would be done to encourage

the interchange of students. It has been frequently pointed out to us that many graduate students, who under the conditions prevailing before the war would have gone to Germany, will now be anxious to come to British universities, and that they require no special endowments or new organizations, but only need to be assured that the doors of the British universities are open to them. Under such an undertaking each university would be free to decide which American institutions to approve, to determine whether the applicant is properly qualified, and to decide the course which is appropriate to him. We would, however, recommend that the list of institutions accepted by the Association of American Universities be adopted by British universities as a list of approved institutions. . . .

As regards future action calculated to promote closer relations between the universities of the two countries, and in consequence also of a better understanding between the two nations, we feel that this can be secured most effectively by the systematic interchange of teachers and students. . . . Everywhere the desire was expressed that, while no attempt should be made to carry out anything like a man for man exchange, the frequent and constant interchange in both directions should be promoted in every way. . . .

In particular, we feel that the legal and medical schools of the American universities and the departments of technology and applied science would prove a great attraction to British graduates if the facilities which they offer were more fully understood.

The difference, as well as the affinity of the social and political experience of the two peoples, and the urgency of the problems, social, intellectual, and political, connected therewith, add special value to the interchange of teachers and students in these subjects. . . .

The British universities should, in our opinion, appoint a committee authorized to act on their behalf in the following particulars: To collect and distribute information both in Britain and America concerning the facilities for exchange in the various universities and colleges; the students or teachers whom it is desired to send from, or to receive into, individual institutions, and the stipends offered; the cost and conditions of living; to seek funds for the endowment of the scheme of interchange; and to arouse interest in proposals to establish traveling scholarships. This committee should be a permanent and representative body, and should be authorized to deal with any corresponding body constituted in America; and, with its assistance and co-operation, to put universities and colleges into direct contact with each other. It should have an adequately paid director or secretary, and a grant for its administrative expenses should be sought from the government. Among the members of the committee should be one or more persons representing the American universities and colleges, or the corresponding American committees.

Though appointed in the first instance to deal with questions concerning American institutions, the committee might at a later stage have its functions widened so as to include similar work for other countries.

Nothing in the duties allotted to such a committee should interfere with the complete right of each university to make its own arrangements in all that relates to the interchange of students and teachers or to its negotiations with other universities. . . .

We think that in such an interchange, especially of the younger men and

women, is to be found the most powerful aid toward a closer relationship and a better understanding between the two countries.

One of the first duties of such an organizing and advisory committee as is here contemplated would be the issue of a handbook giving all the necessary information for foreign students desirous of entering British universities. . . . It has been frequently suggested to us that a volume similar to that entitled "Science and Learning in France," which was prepared in 1917 by a number of American scholars, would serve a very useful purpose.

Among other steps that might be taken by the universities in furtherance of the object for which we plead are: (1) the endowment of traveling scholarships; (2) the institution of part-time lectureships available for Americans pursuing advanced work in Britain; (3) the granting of periodical leave of absence, with half or whole pay, to their own younger teachers to enable them to take up similar appointments in American universities and colleges.